172 genuine beautification, because the whole of its history is written in its splendid buildings. All that is needed would be to free the old buildings of the mean parasitic structures which cumber them, built against their walls or in empty spaces at a time when the authorities were negligent. It would only be necessary to restore to a seemly state and put to suitable use the numerous major monuments, such as "Sheikh Mohassin", the Nuri Maristan, the Zahiriya Madrasah—without the walls, the "Khanaqah Faraza" and that marvel of architecture, the hospital (maristan) built in 1354 by the Emir Arghun, which are either deserted or used as tenements for the poor.

764 In the cemetery of "Es-Salihin", which has been holy ground
172 for centuries, with a sacred rock traditionally associated with Abraham, there are many tombs dating back to the end of the twelfth century, some used as dwellings, others abandoned and half buried. The variety of their architecture and the beauty of the inscriptions on them make them of great interest, and it would be enough to rail them in, clear them and plant a few trees to convert a waste land into a formal park rich with monuments of the past.

The same is true of the tombs in the cemetery of the Maqamat, to the east of the Kamiliya Madrasah—without the walls; the madrasah too requires no more, by way of treatment, than the unbricking of the sanctuary door.

361 Other noteworthy structures which need clearing of the
172 parasitic buildings that have grown up in and around them are the lovely city gates (Bab Antakiya, Bab an-Nasr, "Bab el-Hadid") and the façades, entrances and courtyards of the Ulusamur, Es-Sahun and Qurd-Beg khans.

A proper layout of the approaches to the ramparts between Bab al-Jinan and Bab Qinnasrin, and the demolition of a few run-down shops, would create one of the finest promenades imaginable, with impressive views of the walls and façades of the Mamluke towers.

In any scheme of reconstruction and beautification, consideration must also be given to fine private houses. At present, the Ghazzalih House is being put to rather unsuitable use as a school and worse still, is threatened with demolition. In our view, a suitable use could be found for one or other of these lovely seventeenth- and eighteenth-century residences, as also, perhaps, for one of the khans, as a club or hotel providing amenities for tourists. Aleppo would thus offer its guests a combination of creature comforts and an incomparable artistic setting.

THE CITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

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In 1931, at the request of the municipality of Aleppo, a French architect, Mr. A. Gustoe, of the Institut d'Urbanisme in Paris, submitted plans for improvements and new building in the city, with a report setting out the criteria followed.

In their present form, these plans must be regarded as the bare bones of a scheme to meet the requirements of the modern town and the wishes of its authorities. The real key is in the report, where we find the explanation of the ends sought and the means selected to achieve them. One of its most significant passages is that which points out that, while giving the fullest weight to new human and social requirements, it is essential to grasp "the historical value of each quarter or each particular building and, in terms of that, to decide either on its preservation as it stands or on its improvement and clearing"

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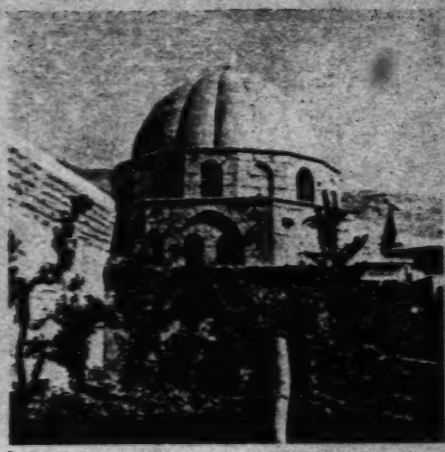

6. Damascus. Cemetery of Bab Saghir.
7. Damascus. Darwish-Pasha Mosque (1571).
8. Damascus. Sahaniya Madrasah (1484).
9. Damascus. Rukniya Madrasah (1444).

following p. 35-B

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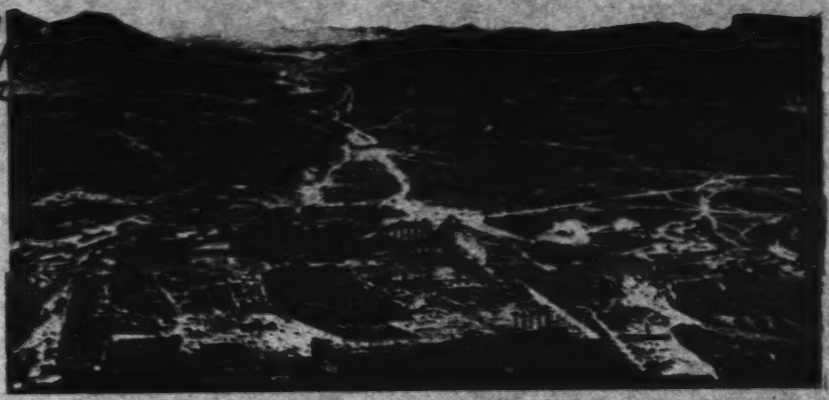

27. Palmyra. Aerial view.
28. Palmyra. Colonnade of the courtyard of the Temple of Bel.
29. Palmyra. Tomb of Elabel.

following P 35-G

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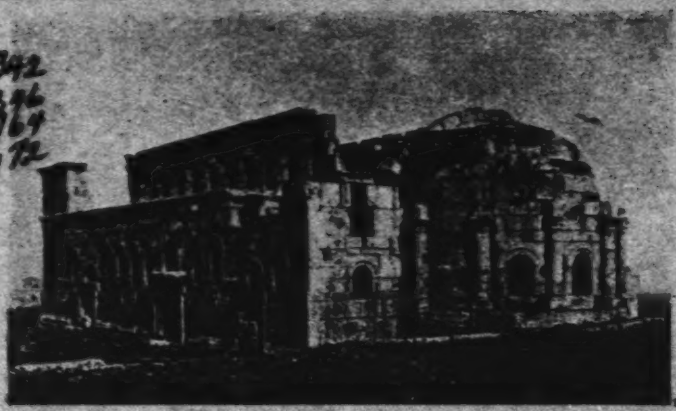

35. Qalb'aun. The church.
36. Ruweiqa. Ancient villa.
37. El-Bara. Tomb.

following p. 35 - N